

**A Proclamation, let forth by the kynges Maieste, with chassent**  
of his dearest uncle, Edward Duke of Somerset, Governour of his moste royall  
person, and of his realmes, dominions and subiectes Protector, and  
others of his moste honorable Counsaill, for the ratyng,  
assessing, and orde of the prices of victuals.



The kynges Maieste, hauing the principall and continuall charge of the  
common wealth and tranquillite of this realme, for the whiche cause al-  
mighty God hath given to his Maieste, power to rule; and to all his  
people hath enioyned loyalties to obey: certainly understandeth, by the  
information and good advise of his moste deere uncle, Edward Duke  
of Somerset, Governour of his moste royall person and Protector of his  
realmes, Dominions and Subiectes, and others of his pryncer Coun-  
saill: That of late tyme, the prices of all maner of victuall, necessary for  
mannes sustenance, be so heightened and raised above the accustomed and reasonable values, that ther-  
by, except speedy remedy be prouided, very great losse and damage, must needs chaunce to his Maieste  
loving subiectes. And therefore both of wisdom, wherewith his Maieste willeth to consider the state of  
his common wealth and of pite, whiche at all tymes his Maieste concerneth upon the lacke and penurie  
of his people hath by long and deliberate studie, of his said deere uncle, the loode Protector, and the rest  
of his pryncer counsaill, concluded, and finally resolved, to prouide remedy therein, the whiche (restyng vpon  
the former redress, of sundrie disorders in the whole common wealth) although it cannot be so absolute-  
ly and speedily had as his Maieste moste hartely desireth, yet it is thought by his Maieste, for the present  
disorders, a great relief to put in due execution, diverse good lawes and statutes, prouided heretofore, by  
the authority of parliament, in the reignes of the kynges Maiestes moste noble progenitors, and espe-  
cially two pollitique good estatutes, made at Westminster in the xv. yere of the reigne of his Maiestes  
moste deere father, late deceased, King Henry theight, or tenth, as by the same appereth, very pollitiquely  
for the redress of these like disorders of prices, whiche at any tyme thence after might happen. The effects  
of whiche later estatute is, that the Lorde Treasurer, the Lorde Chauncellor of Englands, the Lorde Pre-  
sident of the kynges moste honorable counsaill, the Lorde pryncer Seale, the Lorde Steward the Lorde  
Chamberlain and all other Lordes of the kynges counsaill, The Treasurer and Comptroller of the kynges  
moste honorable house, the Chauncellor of the Duchye of Lancaster, the Iustices of either Benche, the  
Chauncellor, Chamberlain, vnder Treasurer, and the Barons of the kynges Exchequer, or vii. of them  
at the least wherof the Lorde Treasurer, the Lorde Chauncellor, the Lorde President of the kynges coun-  
saill, or the Lorde pryncer Seale to bee one, should haue power and authoritie, from tyme to tyme (as the  
case should requyre) to see and take reasonable prices, of all kyndes of victualles, mentioned in the said  
act, how they should be sold in grosse or by retayle, for relief of the kynges subiectes. And that after such  
prices set and taxed, in forme aforesaid: Proclamation should bee made in the kynges name, vnder the  
greate Seale of the said prices, in such partes of this realme, as should be convenient for the same.

And it was further enacted by the said statute, that al Feormors, Owners, Vaggers, and all other vi-  
ctualers whatsoever, hauing and keeping any of the kyndes of victualles, mentioned in the said acte, to  
thynke to sell, should sell the same to such, the kynges subiectes, as would buye them at such prices as  
should be set and taxed by the said Proclamation vpon the paynes to be expressed, and limited in the said  
Proclamation, to be lost, forfeited, and leued to the kynges use, in such wise, as by the said Proclama-  
tion should be declared.

And it was further prouided by the said acte, that the same act, or any thing therein contained, should not  
be hurtfull to any Feormors, Bailiffs, and other officers of Townes, Boroughes, and Countees.



poore, nor to any person or persons, or bodies whatsoever having authority, to let prices of such vi-  
tualles, or of any of them but that they and every of them, might let prices thereof, as if the same acts had  
never been had nor made, as by the same act, amongest other things, more at large it doth appere.

And forasmuche as complaint hath been made, of the enhancing of prices, of the same victualles, with-  
out ground or cause reasonable, in all partes of this realme: In consideration whereof, the Loide Treas-  
urer, the Loide Chaunceller of England, and all others requisite by the said statute, have by authorite  
of the same act, let and taxed reasonable prices, of all kinde of victualles, mentioned in the same act, to be  
sold in forme following, to the intent the same should be proclaimed according to the same act: That is to  
say, that the date of this Proclamation made, without delay, all and singular persons and persons,  
having or keeping, any of the kindes of victualles, mentioned in the said act, within this realme, to the intent  
to sell, shall sell the same to such of the Kinges subiectes, as will buye them at the prices, hereafter men-  
oned, that is to say: from Whitsome to Hallowmas, every Ox being pruned or well stricken, of the lar-  
gest bone, xxviii. s. of a meaner sort, xviii. s. In Oxen fat, and of the largest bone, xii. s. of the meaner sort  
being fatte, xxviii. s. Steeres and Kintes, being pruned or well stricken, and large of bone, xx. s. of a mea-  
ner sort, xvi. s. being fatte and of the largest bone, xx. s. being fat of a meaner sort, xii. s. Heffurths and  
Kine, being pruned or well stricken, and large of bone, xvi. s. of a meaner sort, xii. s. iii. d. being fat and  
large of bone, xxii. s. being fatte and of a meaner sort, xviii. s. And from Hallowmas to Christmas, eve-  
ry Ox being fat and large of bone, xli. s. viii. d. being fat of a meaner sort, xxx. s. viii. d. Steeres and  
Kintes within the same time, being fat and large of bone, xxvi. s. viii. d. being fat of a meaner sort, xxii. s.  
viii. d. Heffurths and Kine within the same time, being fat and large of bone, xxiii. s. of a meaner sort, xix.  
s. And from Christmas to Shroffide, every Ox being fat and large of bone, xliii. s. viii. d. of a meaner  
sort, xli. s. viii. d. Steeres and Kintes within the same time, being fat and large of bone, xxviii. s. viii. d. of a  
meaner sort, xxiii. s. viii. d. And from Shroffing time to Michaelmas, every wether being a shewe shepe, be-  
ing leane and large of bone, iii. s. of a meaner sort, ii. s. viii. d. being fat and large of bone, iii. s. being fat  
of a meaner sort, ii. s. Ewes within the same time, being leane and large of bone, ii. s. being leane of a  
meaner sort, xx. d. being fat and large of bone, ii. s. viii. d. being fat of a meaner sort, xv. s. And from Michael-  
mas to Shroffide, every wether being a shewe shepe, being leane and large of bone, iii. s. being leane of  
a meaner sort, ii. s. viii. d. being fat and large of bone, iii. s. viii. d. being fat of a meaner sort, ii. s. viii. d.

And from Whitsome to Michaelmas the pound of sweet Butter not to be sold above i. d. q. And from  
Michaelmas to the Newe yeres troope, the pound not above i. d. ob. Buttered Butter of Essex the peck  
not to be sold to any the Kinges subiectes, above, x. d. q. And buttered Butter of any other partes,  
to be sold to the Kinges subiectes not above, ob. q. Cheese of Essex, to be sold to the Kinges subiectes, from  
Whitsome to Michaelmas, the pound, not above, ob. Cheese of other partes, not above, ob. vi. q. And  
of Essex to the Kinges subiectes, from Michaelmas, to the Newe yeres troope, not above, ob. vi. q. And of  
any other partes, not above, ob. q. Upo pain of forfeiture for every Ox, Steere, Cowe, Hecke, and Bul-  
locke, that should be sold by vertue of the said act, and this Proclamation, and shall not so be sold, v. l. and  
for every Shepe that should be sold, by vertue of the same act and this Proclamation, and shall not so be  
sold, x. s. And for every pounde of Butter and Cheese, vi. d. And that for all and every person that shall be  
forfeited by vertue of the same act and this Proclamation, the King our Soueraigne Loide, shall and may  
have his recovery and remedy, by information, bill, plaint, or action of debt, in any of his highnes Cour-  
tes of Record. Wherefore, we considering the premises, to be for the wealthe and commoditie of this our  
realme, will and commaunde you our Shirees of our Countie of within twoo daies next af-  
ter the receipt of this said Proclamation, that ye with all speed shall proclaim the premises, in all War-  
ren Countes, within the said Countie of and that all manner our subiectes, shall obey the  
same, not onely upon the paines above said, but also to incurre our indignacion and displeasure.

And furthermore the Kinges Maistie by his authority, doth hereby charge, that all man-  
ner all manner his Justices of Peace, Sheriffs, and all other officers of any



market or marketes within the same countie shall make provision to furnish the markettes for the  
relief of his saying subjects that they may have such a provision that the church, colleges, houses,  
farmers, scholars, or any other of any kind of estate or degree whatsoever here abiding, having  
such store of any kind of the aforesaid victual that he may spare part of his said stock, be it lent or sold  
once and besides the store necessary for the maintenance of his household, the allowance whereof must  
be made, in respect of his accustomed expenses, and the time of an other usual provision towards the  
furnishing of the market, shall by appointment and order of the said Justices, and other officers above  
named bring to the market and markettes such number and quantite of the said victuals and at such  
time and times, as they shall think the cause and necessity requireth, and the same shall sell there accord-  
ing to the prices by the said Justices to be rated, as for an example, where the markettes cannot be ser-  
ved with sufficient quantite of Wheat, so that in default thereof the people happen to have such much  
lacke, then in that and like cases, the Kinges Maesties will and commandment is, that the said Just-  
ices of every countie, and officers above named, upon the certain knowledge of that lacke shall compell all  
and every such person and persons, as shall have right to the said market townes, the number of v. c.  
sheepe for every hundredth of the same v. c. and above, to send to the market so lacking, at the most  
of the best and fattest sheepe of that sort to be sold from time to time, and at the prices to be rated by the  
said Justices and other officers, and if there lacke, then less in number, upon the paine aforesaid, for every  
sheepe not so brought to the market. Furthermore because the prices of the Wheat and Wootens hereto  
adorned be but the prices of Wheat and Wootens alone and sold in grosse and not by retails, as the  
Boucher beeth to do: his Maestie notwithstanding the tenor of this Proclamation, himselfe the Bou-  
cher in such cases where he shall buy of those prices so to sell above the said price, as it shall be thought a-  
ordered by the said Justices, and officers above named according to the lawes & statutes of the realm  
made for a convenient gaine towards his living. And so in all cases the same to be observed upon paines  
expressed in sundry statutes for the same.

Provided that notwithstanding any article or clause above mentioned, every Boucher being no Sta-  
tier having bought, and in his possession any manner cattell above the prices herein contained, before the  
time of this Proclamation, shall have licence and full libertie, to make sale of any such cattell so bought  
of those prices according to the rate and proportion of the price he paid or then became debtor for, with-  
out any coupon, by the space of viii. days after the Proclamation shall be proclaimed, in the next market  
towne to his dwelling place, or to the place where he shall that sell, and after those viii. days, then to re-  
maine subject to the whole tenor of the Proclamation. And herein the Kinges Maestie to whom onely  
under Gods appointment auengement, punishment and redress of his peoples offences whatsoever the  
same be most straightly chargeth, and upon the paine of his highnes extreme indignation, commaundeth  
all manner of people to take the redress & amendment of any manner offence against the tenor of this Procla-  
mation, or any other statute or lawes only by order of his Maesties lawes, without force, riot, manasse,  
unlawfull assemblies, or any other disturbance of peace. And on the contrary if any subject of what degree  
or estate soever he be, shall contrariwise, and unlawfully, that is to say, otherwise then by complaint or  
order of lawe, take, begin, or enterprize to redresse, his owne cause, or the cause of any other, be the same ne-  
ver so just: Then his Maestie aftermuch and lette the same to knowe, that without any manner favour  
or grace to be hoped upon, he and every of them, so offending, shall surely feele by extreme punishment  
the Kinges highnes bitter indignation, and in such case no extremite to be spared, but to be taken and  
accepted, not onely as unkynde, unnatural, unloving and disobedient subjects: But also as high tra-  
itors and rebelloys against the Kinges Maesties owne royall person, his crowne, state, and dignitie. Do-  
ned at Richmond the second of July, the third yere of the reign of King Edward the. VI.

God save the King.

Edmund London, in which is a full  
copy of the same.

Printed by I. I. at the sign of the Sunne in St. Dunstons Church.